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X-FACTOR



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WHEN SUPERHUMANITY NEEDS A DETECTIVE AGENCY, THEY CALL UPON MADROX THE
MULTIPLE MAN AND HIS MUTANT TEAM OF INVESTIGATORS...

X-FACTOR



PREVIOUSLY...

CONCERNED THAT THE IMPENDING BIRTH OF HER CHILD--AND THE RELATED ATTACKS BY VARIOUS MYTHIC CREATURES--WAS POSING A DANGER TO THE REST OF THE TEAM, RAHNE TOOK OFF WITH JACK RUSSELL, THE WEREWOLF BY NIGHT, SEEKING REFUGE IN UPSTATE NEW YORK. THIS DIDN'T EXACTLY WORK OUT AS THEY FOUND THEMSELVES PURSUED BY CERBERUS, WHO IN TURN WAS SICKED ON THEM BY A MYSTERIOUS BOY WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS AGAMMEMNON. NOW, AS THE REST OF THE X-FACTOR TEAM DESCENDS UPON THE FOREST TO FIND THE MISSING SCOTSWOMAN, RAHNE FINDS HERSELF IMPRISONED IN THE CELLAR OF AGAMMEMNON'S CABIN WHERE HE IS EITHER ABOUT TO ATTACK HER WITH A KNIFE OR PROVIDE EXPOSITION...OR MAYBE BOTH.

MEANWHILE, PETER HURRIEDLY COMPLETES THIS SUMMARY AS HE PREPARES TO HEAD OUT TO COMIC-CON IN SAN DIEGO, THERE TO PROMOTE THE VIDEO GAME "SPIDER-MAN: EDGE OF TIME" THAT HE SCRIPTED, FEATURING THE FIRST-EVER DIRECT VIDEO GAME TEAM-UP OF SPIDER-MAN AND SPIDEY 2099. HOW COOL IS THAT?

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LET ME
GO, YOU
SON-
A--!

TEMPER,
TEMPER. YOU'RE
IN LABOR. YOU
SHOULD TRY TO
RELAX.



I'LL KILL
YOU FOR
THIS!

BETTER THAN
YOU HAVE TRIED.
YOU DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHO OR
WHAT I AM.

IT DOESN'T
MATTER!

IT
ACTUALLY
KIND OF
DOES.



SEE, HERE'S THE
THING. YOU HAVEN'T
HEARD OF ME, BUT I
THINK YOU'VE HEARD
OF MY HALF-
SISTER.

TALL? DEATH
GODDESS? HAS
A THING FOR HATS
WITH ANTLETS?

RUNS THE
PLACE WHERE
YOUR LOVER IS
TRAPPED?



HSLA...?

RIGHT.

YOU'RE
WORKING
WITH--?



WITH?
NO.

YOU SEE...
THERE'S A
WAR COMING,
MY DEAR.



A WAR IN WHICH YOUR CHILD IS DESTINED TO BE A MAJOR PLAYER.

BUT... BUT WHY?

THE FIRST CHILD BORN OF MUTANT AND GOD? HOW COULD IT NOT BE?



AND WHOEVER CONTROLS THE CHILD...RAISES IT IN HIS OWN IMAGE...

...IS GOING TO WIN THE WAR.

WHAT CAN I SAY? I LIKE TO WIN.



YOU WON'T BREAK THOSE CHAINS, THEY'RE ENCHANTED.

THEY HELD CERBERUS. THEY CAN HOLD YOU.

CERBERUS ISN'T A MOTHER FIGHTING FOR HER CHILD.

FAIR ENOUGH. STILL--



AAAAARRHH!!

PROBLEMS?

MUH GUT... MUH...MUH CHEST...ON FIRE!



CHEST, TOO? HUH. I HOPE YOU'RE NOT PLANNING TO GO ALL "ALIENS" ON ME. THAT WOULD BE MESSY...



NYAAAAARRHH!!!

BETTER GO GET SOME CLOROX, JUST IN CASE.







"THINGS KIND OF
JUST WENT INSANE
FROM THERE."

"SHATTERSTAR AND GUIDO
ARE BASICALLY IN THE MIDDLE
OF IT. JUST TRYING TO MAKE
SURE THAT NOBODY
FOLLOWS US SO WE HAVE A
CLEAR SHOT AT RAVINE."



"AT THIS POINT, GOD
ONLY KNOWS HOW IT'S
GOING TO COME OUT."

**X-FACTOR INVESTIGATIONS
HEADQUARTERS.**

QUO
VADIS,
PIP?

WHAT
THE--?!

I SEE
YOU'RE BACK
FROM THE
EXCURSION.

DIDN'T LEAD
THEM ALL THE
WAY TO RAHNE,
DID YOU.

I GET
THAT. I
THINK I EVEN
GET WHY.

WHAT I DON'T
UNDERSTAND IS
WHY YOU POPPED
BACK HERE INSTEAD
OF JUST... WELL...
ANYWHERE YOU
WANTED.

WHY'RE YOU HERE?
WHY DIDN'T CHA GO
WITH THE TEAM?

I DIDN'T
BECAUSE
I DON'T.

YEAH,
THAT'S
HELPFUL.

SO WHY
DIDN'T YOU
LEAVE?

YOU'RE
SO SMART.
YOU TELL
ME.

I CAN'T. UNLESS
YOU TELL ME, I
WON'T KNOW.

WELL, THEN
IT'S GONNA
HAVE TA BE A
MYSTERY.

EVEN TO
YOURSELF?

I GUESS.

I'M GLAD
WE HAD THIS
TALK.

IS THAT
WHAT THIS
WUZ?

CLOSE
ENOUGH.

JUST SO YOU KNOW, I'M NOT PLANNING TO SACRIFICE YOU OR ANYTHING.

THIS IS JUST TO CUT THE CORD OR, AT WORST, DO A G-SECTION.

OF COURSE, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SEW YOU BACK TOGETHER, BUT...



SCHWACHCHING

WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHAT DO YOU--?

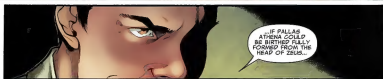


WOW. TALK ABOUT COUGHING UP A HAIRBALL.

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THIS COMING.

THE BIRTHS OF GODS OR EVEN HALF-GODS AREN'T GOVERNED BY MORTAL BIOLOGY.

AND AFTER ALL...



...IF PALLAS ATHENA COULD BE BIRTHED FULLY FORMED FROM THE HEAD OF ZEUS...

WHY
NOT THE
OFFSPRING
OF A HORSE
GOD?





HELLO.

I KNOW
THIS IS ALL
NEW AND
CONFUSING
TO YOU.

YOU MIGHT
AS WELL LISTEN
CLOSELY, BECAUSE
YOU CAN'T LEAVE
THAT CIRCLE UNTIL
I ALLOW YOU
T—



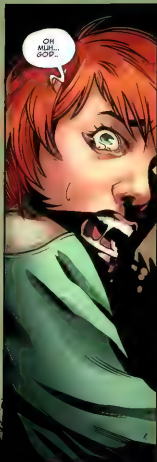
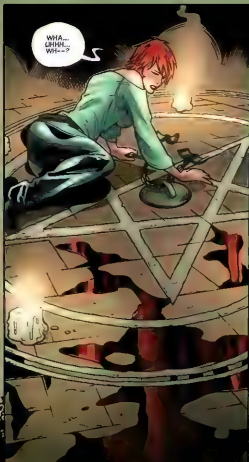
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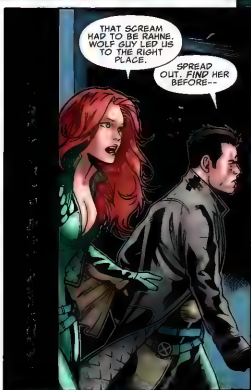
WAIT! NO!
GET BACK!
YOU--!



HEH.

FIRST
BLOOD. WHAT
A TRIP, HUM?



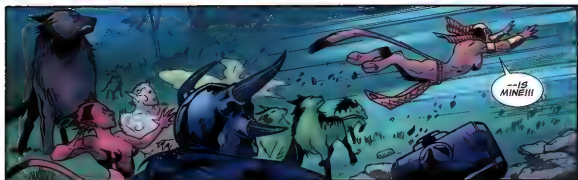




ARROOOOOOO

HE...
IS BORN!

HE--



--IS
MINE!!!



OH
NO, HE'S
NOT!

I WILL
HAVE HIM!

GET BACK,
FOOLS! HE'S
MINE!



SO, UM...
I FIGURE WE
SHOULD...WHAT?
FOLLOW THOSE
GUYS?



DO WHAT
YOU WANT. THEY
CAN ROT FOR ALL
I CARE. I'M
GOING HOME.

NO,
I'LL BE FINE,
THANKS.

YOU
TOO.

UM...
Y'NEED A
LIFT OR
SOMETHING?

NICE
FIGHTING
YOU.



OH DEAR LORD.

MADROXI LONGSHOT! SHE'S DOWN HERE! AND... THERE'S BLOOD EVERYWHERE!

IS IT HER? IS SHE OKAY? IS ANYONE DOWN THERE WITH HER?

SHE'S ALIVE, BUT SHE'S IN BAD SHAPE.

I DON'T THINK THE BLOOD'S HERS, THOUGH. AND SHE'S ALONE.

A...ALONE? BUT...THAT...THAT BOY...AGAINEM.

THERE'S NO BOY HERE, THERE'S JUST YOU.

YOUR BABY...IS HE ALL RIGHT...?

THAT...THAT... CREATURE...

...IS NO CHILD O'MINE...

WHAT'RE YOU...?

OH...MY GOD...

JEEZ, RAHNE, ARE YOU--?

MADROX... THAT CREATURE THAT ATTACKED YOU...





SH?



STAY
BACK!
YOU
SNARLING
BEAST!




HE IS MINE,
DO YOU HEAR
ME? HOW DARE
YOU--!

IT TOOK A WHILE TO SORT OUT
WHAT HAPPENED, SURE, WE HAD
TWO EYEWITNESSES WHO GOT
THERE AT THE LAST SECOND...

...BUT BOTH OF THEM
WERE FLASH-BLINDED
BY WHATEVER THE
HELL ENERGIES
WERE UNLEASHED.





BY THE TIME ANY
OTHER OF OUR
PEOPLE CONVERGED
ON THE SPOT...

...IT WAS OVER.

GUIDO AND SHATTERSTAR,
THEY DESCRIBED IT
AS BEST THEY COULD.

THE "BABY" LEAPING INTO
HELA'S ARMS JUST WHEN
ALL THOSE OTHER CREATURES
CAME CRASHING IN.

DIFFERENT MYTHIC FIGURES
ALL SLAMMING INTO ONE
MYSTIC PORTAL. TALK ABOUT
WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE.

IT WAS LIKE MATTER MEETS
ANTI-MATTER ON A KEG OF
DYNAMITE THE SIZE OF
DELAWARE. WE'RE LUCKY THE
WHOLE FOREST DIDN'T GO UP.

RUSSELL TOOK
OFF AS WELL.
GUESS HE'D DONE
ALL HE COULD.

AS DID WE. WE GOT RAHNE
BACK. WE TRIED TO TELL
HER WHAT HAPPENED, BUT
SHE WOULDN'T LISTEN.

SHE JUST KEPT SAYING
THE SAME THING,
OVER AND OVER...

...I'VE BEEN
JUDGED... AND
THIS WAS MY
PUNISHMENT...

THIS WAS MY
PUNISHMENT.



NEXT



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